

# Missouri State Highway Patrol

## Statistical Analysis Center



### Crime in Missouri 2018

#### Executive Summary

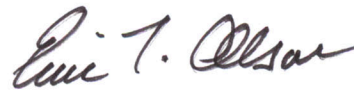
November 2019

## FOREWORD

This publication is produced by the Missouri State Highway Patrol Statistical Analysis Center and is intended to provide rudimentary analysis of Missouri's crime statistics.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol assumed management of the Missouri Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program in 2001. It is the responsibility of the UCR Program to collect, maintain, and ensure the integrity of Missouri's UCR crime statistics. In addition, the Missouri UCR Program is responsible for reporting monthly crime statistics to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Uniform Crime Reporting Program. This report is produced annually to document crime activity reported to these programs.

I encourage all criminal justice and other public officials to review this publication. If additional research or statistical information services about Missouri's crime totals is needed, please contact the Statistical Analysis Center for assistance.

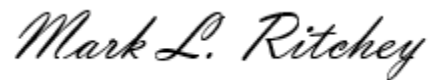
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eric T. Olson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Olson" clearly distinguishable.

Eric T. Olson, Colonel  
Superintendent

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The Missouri Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program has worked with Missouri law enforcement agencies to meet mandatory reporting compliance as mandated by Section 43.505 RSMo. On behalf of the Missouri State Highway Patrol Statistical Analysis Center, I would like to thank the Criminal Justice Information Services Division and the Research and Development Division for their assistance in the development of Crime in Missouri. Personnel in these divisions play an integral role in making this report possible.

In addition, Missouri law enforcement agencies that submit crime and employment information to the Missouri UCR Program play a critical role in development of this report. Their participation in the program is indicative of their desire to improve Missouri's law enforcement information capabilities.

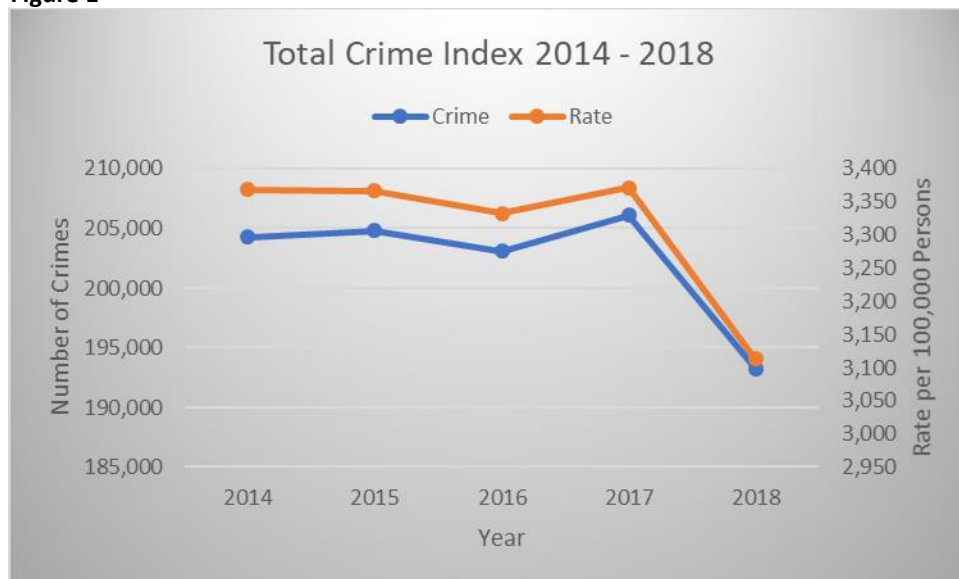
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark L. Ritchey". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. Mark L. Ritchey, Director  
Missouri Statistical Analysis Center

## Index Offenses

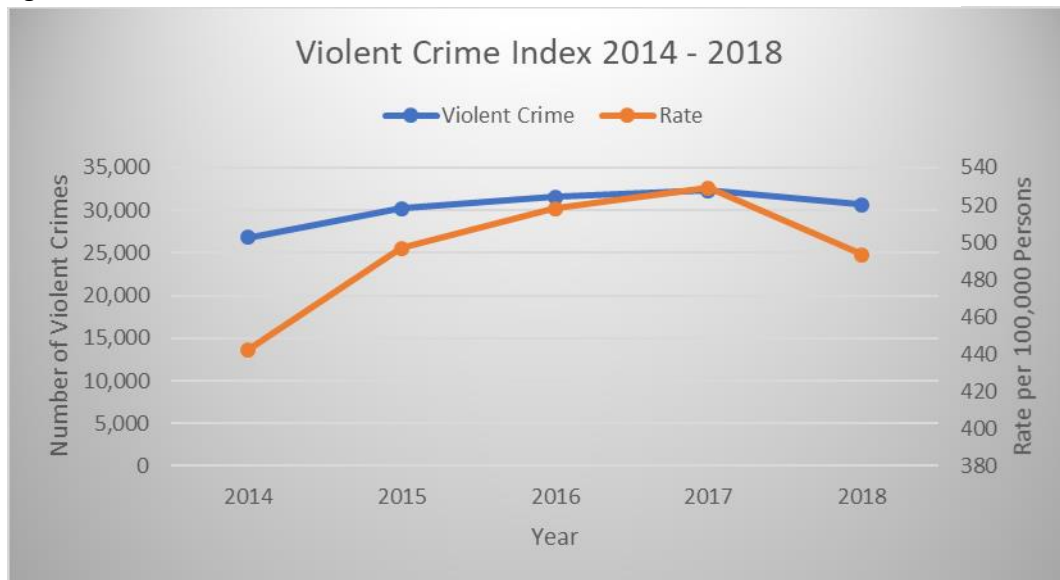
Part I index offenses include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, and human trafficking. These offenses break down into violent index offenses consisting of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and human trafficking, and property index offenses consisting of burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. All other crimes are considered non-index or Part II offenses. In Missouri, a total of 193,260 index offenses were committed during 2018. By comparison 206,101 index offenses were committed in Missouri during 2017. Missouri's index crime rate for 2018 was 3,112.9 crimes per 100,000 persons. This rate decreased about 7.7% compared to 2017. From 2014 to 2018, the total index offense rate dropped about 7.6% shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1**



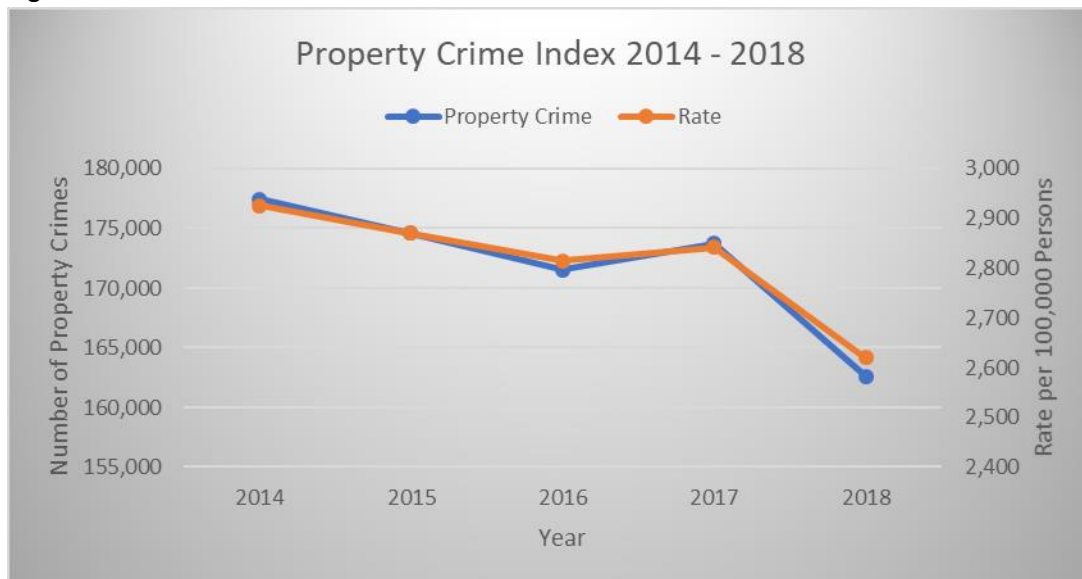
Violent index offenses totaled 30,635 in 2018, which produced a rate of 493.4 per 100,000 persons. This rate decreased 6.7% compared to 2017. The violent crime rate decrease is due to decreases in the robbery and aggravated assault rates. Additionally, law enforcement agencies reported 27 human trafficking crimes in 2018 compared to 29 reported in 2017. Reported incidents of human trafficking still only constituted 0.01% of all index crimes reported in 2018. Figure 2 shows that the violent crime rate has increased compared to 2014 even with the decrease in 2018.

**Figure 2**



Similar to violent index offenses, Missouri experienced a slight decrease in the number of reported property index offenses from 2017 to 2018. Law enforcement agencies reported a total of 162,625 property index offenses in 2018 compared to 173,753 property index offenses in 2017. The property index offense rate of 2,619.4 per 100,000 persons in 2018 is approximately a 7.8% decrease compared to 2017. Between 2014 and 2018, burglary, larceny-theft, and arson rates all decreased, which offset the increase in the motor vehicle theft rate during the same time period. This accounts for the 10.5% decrease since 2014 shown in Figure 3.

**Figure 3**



## ***Arrests***

Law enforcement agencies reported a total of 231,585 arrests in 2018. This is approximately a 4.8% decrease compared to 2017, and a 12.8% decrease compared to 2014. Index offense arrests decreased from 2017 by about 9.2% to 49,108 in 2018. Similarly, non-index offense arrests decreased approximately 3.9% compared to 2017, for a total of 192,477 in 2018. In 2018, the largest proportion of arrestees were male adults (58.9%) followed by adult females (30.8%). Male juveniles (7.1%) and female juveniles (3.2%) accounted for a small proportion of those arrested.

## ***Murder***

Murder is the least occurring offense of all index offenses but resonates most with the public. In 2018, 602 murders occurred in Missouri, producing a rate of 9.7 per 100,000 persons. The murder rate did not change compared to 2017 but has increased about 46.3% compared to 2014. Additionally, the 602 murders in 2018 only made up 2.0% of violent index offenses and 0.3% of all index offenses. Male adults made up the largest contingent of murder victims at 72.9% when grouped by gender and age. In 2018, firearms made up approximately 86.5% of all weapons used in murders, compared to 87.4% in 2017.

## ***Rape***

In 2018, 2,899 rape offenses occurred in Missouri, which is an increase from the 2,713 rape offenses in 2017. The rape rate of 46.7 per 100,000 persons in 2018 is an increase of about 6.9% compared to 2017. The rape rate has also increased about 19.0% compared to 2014. Rape offenses made up about 9.5% of violent index offenses and approximately 1.5% of all index offenses. The largest group of offenders arrested for rape in 2018 were still male adults, making up approximately 78.5% of rape arrests. The 557 arrests in 2018 are approximately a 5.2% increase compared to 2017 and constituted about 0.2% of all arrests in Missouri.

## ***Robbery***

In 2018, there were 5,197 robberies and a rate of 83.7 per 100,000 persons. This rate decreased about 19.4% compared to 2017. Robberies made up about 17.0% of violent index offenses and approximately 2.7% of all index offenses. Like murders, most robberies are committed using a firearm (55.4%). In Missouri 38.9% of robberies occurred on the highways with the next most frequent location being residences (18.8%). Robbery arrests totaled 1,477 in 2018, which is a decrease of 16.3% compared to 2017.

## ***Aggravated Assault***

The most frequent violent index offense during 2018 was aggravated assault with 21,910 offenses. These offenses constituted 71.5% of violent index offenses and 11.3% of all index offenses. Likewise, aggravated assault has the highest rate of violent index offenses, with a rate of 352.9 per 100,000 persons. This rate is a 4.8% decrease compared to 2017. The aggravated assault rate has increased about 15.9% since 2014. While firearms again were most often used by aggravated assault offenders, the difference between other types of weapons is not as great as it is in murders and robberies. Firearms were used about 38.9% of the time in aggravated assaults whereas hands, fists, feet, or other dangerous weapons were used in about 25.6% and 24.7% of all aggravated assaults, respectively. Adult males (72.3%) represented the largest group within the 7,236 aggravated assault arrests law enforcement agencies reported in 2018. Arrests for aggravated assaults decreased about 0.8% since 2017 but have increased about 2.8% since 2014.

## ***Burglary***

Burglary was the second most common property index offense in 2018, with 27,157 offenses. These offenses translated to a rate of 437.4 burglaries per 100,000 persons. Burglaries accounted for 16.7% of property index offenses and about 14.1% of all index offenses. Burglaries occurred most frequently between 6:00am and 6:00pm at residential buildings. The burglary rate has declined since 2014; about 10.8% between 2017 and 2018, and 24.7% since 2014. Law enforcement agencies reported 3,685 arrests for burglary in 2018, representing approximately a 9.7% decrease from 2017 and about a 21.1% decrease from 2014. Male adults (69.0%) make up the overwhelming percentage of burglary arrests.

## ***Larceny Theft***

The most common index offense, both violent and property, is larceny-theft. The 114,657 larceny theft offenses accounted for 70.5% of property index offenses and nearly 59.3% of all index offenses. Nearly a quarter of larceny-theft offenses were from motor vehicles followed by larceny-theft offenses from shoplifting. The larceny-theft offense rate for 2018 was 1,846.8 per 100,000 persons, which was an 8.1% decrease compared to 2017. Since 2014, the larceny-theft offense rate has decreased 10.0%. The 22,854 arrests in 2018 were a 14.5% decrease compared to 2017, and a 28.7% decrease compared to 2014. In 2018, adult males made up the largest portion of larceny-theft arrests at 50.6% of arrests, however, female adults also made up a large portion of larceny-theft arrests with 39.4% of larceny arrests. This is the largest portion of female adult arrests for any of the index offenses.

## ***Motor Vehicle Theft***

With 19,746 offenses, motor vehicle thefts constituted 12.1% of property index offenses and 10.2% of all index offenses in 2018. Of all motor vehicle thefts, 73.5% of the stolen vehicles were automobiles and 16.8% were trucks and buses. The motor vehicle theft rate in 2018 was 318.1 per 100,000 persons, which is a decrease of about 2.2% compared to 2017 and a decrease of about 18.0% compared to 2014. The 2,655 arrests reported by law enforcement agencies for motor vehicle thefts are an increase of 1.1% compared to 2017, and an increase of 43.1% compared to 2014.

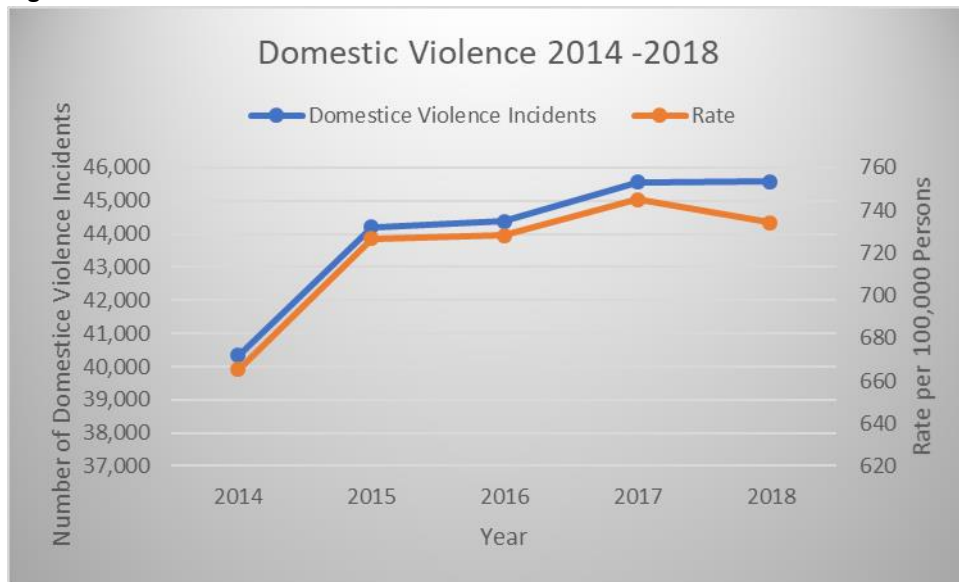
## ***Arson***

Arson was the least frequently occurring property index offense with 1,065 offenses in 2018. Single occupancy residential structures were the most frequent type of property involved in arsons, with the next most frequent structure being motor vehicles. The arson rate in 2018 decreased 0.6% to 17.2 per 100,000 compared to 2017. The arson rate has decreased 25.6% since 2014. The number of arrests for arson was the smallest amount for any of the index offenses, excluding human trafficking, with 229 arrests. Adult males (61.6%) constituted the largest portion of those arrested for arson. Arson arrests increased 14.5% from 2017. In addition, since 2014 arson arrests increased by 8.5%.

## ***Domestic Violence***

Domestic violence incidents totaled 45,548 in 2018, equivalent to a rate of 733.6 incidents per 100,000 persons. This rate decreased approximately 1.6% compared to 2017. Shown in Figure 4, the domestic violence rate has increased 10.3% between 2014 and 2018. One issue in domestic violence incidents arises when attempting to classify the relationship between the offender or offenders and victim or victims. There are several relationship classifications that law enforcement agencies use when defining domestic violence incidents. Incidents from social intimate relationships accounted for the most domestic violence incidents. By contrast, incidents involving former spouses constituted the least amount of domestic violence incidents.

**Figure 4**



### **Law Enforcement**

Law enforcement employment data are drawn from annual reports on employment submitted by law enforcement agencies to Missouri's Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Employment figures include full-time sworn officers with full arrest power and civilian employees an agency has on its payroll as of October 31. They do not include part-time or auxiliary officers, nor does the data include federal law enforcement agencies whose jurisdictional responsibilities encompass the state of Missouri.

Law enforcement agencies employed 22,657 sworn officers and civilians in 2018. This number is up slightly from 20,755 in 2017. The number of sworn officers employed slightly increased by approximately 6.5% to 15,735, and civilians employed numbered 6,922 representing a 15.7% increase from 2017. The number of law enforcement employees remained relatively consistent over the last five years. Sworn officer and civilian employment increased 5.9% and 16.2%, respectively, compared to 2014, giving a total increase of about 8.8% for all law enforcement personnel employed.

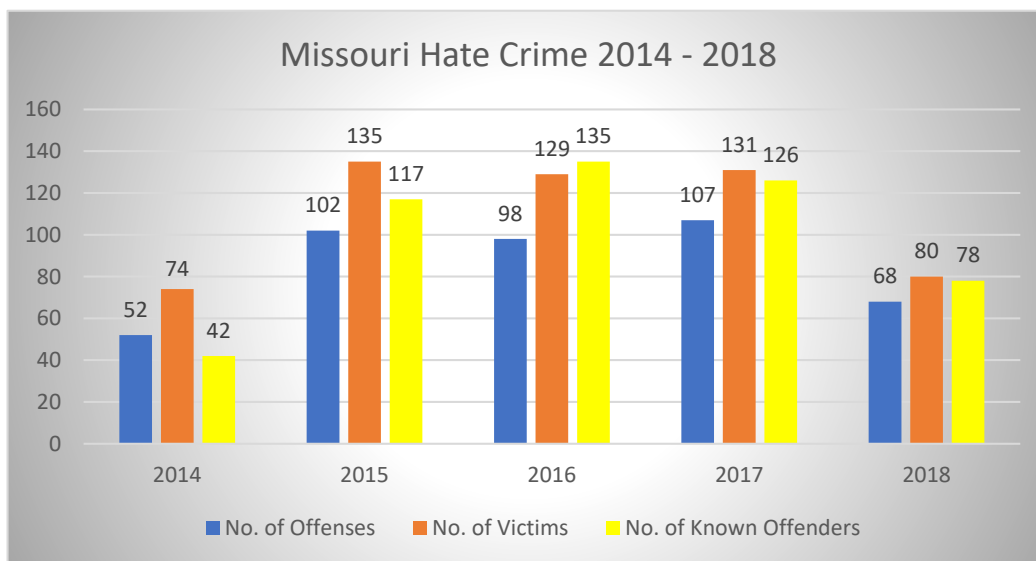
Being employed by law enforcement encompasses unique and often hazardous situations, especially for sworn officers. Unfortunately, there were two law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2018. Additionally, there were 1,771 assaults against law enforcement officers in 2018. This number is lower than the 2,032 assaults recorded in 2017. The number of assaults resulting in injury has also decreased. In 2014, there were 506 assaults that resulted in injury, compared to 369 assaults resulting in injury in 2018. Assaults resulting in injury accounted for approximately 20.8% of all law enforcement officer assaults in 2018, whereas this percentage was approximately 22.0% in 2014. The type of weapons used against law enforcement officers that resulted in an assault show differing trends. The usage of a knife or cutting instrument in officer assaults were similar for both 2014 and 2018 at just under two percent. Firearms and other dangerous weapons were used 6.0% and 13.7% in 2014 respectively, and in 2018, firearms and other dangerous weapons were used 6.2% and 15.4% respectively. The usage of hands, fists, or feet has decreased from 78.6% in 2014 to 76.6% in 2018.



### Hate Crime

In 2018, there were 68 hate crime offenses with 80 victims and 78 known offenders. This is a 36.4% and 38.9% decrease in offenses and victims compared to 2017, respectively. Known offenders decreased by 38.1% compared to 2017 as well. Figure 5 shows that the number of offenses, victims, and known offenders increased between 2014 and 2015, remained unchanged from 2015 to 2017, and decreased again in 2018. The number of offenses increased 30.8%, while the number of victims and offenders increased 8.2% and 85.7% respectively between 2014 and 2018. Most offenses had a bias of anti-race/ancestry. Of the hate crime offenders, 50.0% were white, 29.5% were Black or African American, and 20.5% featured an unknown race. In 2018, there were 49 hate crimes against persons and 19 against properties.

Figure 5



### Conclusion

The tables represented in the Crime in Missouri website contain crime statistics for 2018, which provide a plethora of statistical information. The data represented in this publication is valid through April 2019. Data collection is on-going, and therefore tables found in the on-line format are subject to change. The online format offers two output options, PDF and Excel, to enhance the public's use, availability, and access. The Missouri State Highway Patrol appreciates the public taking the time to view *Crime in Missouri*. Comments or suggestions about this publication should be sent to the Missouri State Highway Patrol Statistical Analysis Center.